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1 We claim:

2 1. An apparatus for molding plastic materials comprising:
3 a mold having a first mold section (12) and a second mold section (14) with a
4 mold cavity (16) disposed between the first and the second mold sections (12, 14);
5 a first gate design for providing a first plastic material to the mold cavity (16)
6 provided by at least one first gate design mold member (40);
7 a second gate design for providing a second plastic material to the mold cavity
8 (16) provided by at least one second gate design mold member;
9 the first and second gate design mold members removably attachable to at least
10 one of the first or the second mold sections (12, 14);
11 the first and second gate design mold members interchangeable on at least one of
12 the first or the second mold sections (12, 14) to change from the first gate design to the
13 second gate design.

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15 2. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the mold
16 comprises an injection mold.

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18 3. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the first
19 gate design comprises an edge gate.

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21 4. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the
22 second gate design comprises an edge gate.

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24 5. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein at least
25 one of said first or second mold sections contains a recess and said first or second gate
26 design mold member is insertable in said recess.

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28 6. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the first
29 gate design mold member is removably attachable to the first or the second mold section
30 by threaded fasteners.

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1 7. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the
2 second gate design mold member is removably attachable to the first or the second mold
3 section by threaded fasteners.

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5 8. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the first
6 gate design is provided by at least two interchangeable mold members (41, 42).

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8 9. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the
9 second gate design is provided by at least two interchangeable mold members.

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11 10. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the first
12 plastic material comprises a thermoplastic polymer.

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14 11. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 10 wherein the first
15 plastic material further comprises a pigment.

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17 12. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 11 wherein the
18 pigment further comprises a light-reflective pigment.

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20 13. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 11 wherein the
21 pigment further comprises a metallic pigment.

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23 14. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 1 wherein the
24 second plastic material comprises a thermoplastic polymer.

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26 15. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 14 wherein the
27 second plastic material further comprises a pigment.

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29 16. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 15 wherein the
30 pigment further comprises a light-reflective pigment.

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1 17. The apparatus for molding plastic materials of claim 15 wherein the
2 pigment further comprises a metallic pigment.

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4 18. A method for molding plastic materials, the method comprising:
5 providing a mold having a first mold section (12) and a second mold section (14)
6 with a mold cavity (16) disposed between the first and the second mold sections (12, 14);
7 providing a first gate design;
8 forming a product in the mold cavity (16) by providing a first plastic material
9 through the first gate design;
10 separating the first mold section (12) and the second mold section (14);
11 removing the product from the mold cavity (16);
12 changing from the first gate design to a second gate design;
13 forming a product in the mold cavity (16) by providing a second plastic material
14 through the second gate design.

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16 19. The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the mold
17 comprises an injection mold.

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19 20. The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the first
20 gate design comprises an edge gate.

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22 21. The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the second
23 gate design comprises an edge gate.

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25 22. The method for molding plastic materials of claim 22 wherein:
26 the first gate design is provided by at least two interchangeable mold members;
27 and
28 the second gate design is provided by at least two interchangeable mold
29 members.

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1 23. The method for molding plastic materials of claim 22 wherein at least one
2 of said first or second mold section contains a recess and said first or second gate design
3 is insertable in said recess.
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5 24. The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the first
6 gate design mold member is removably attachable to the first or the second mold section
7 by threaded fasteners.
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9 25. The method for molding plastic materials of claim 18 wherein the second
10 gate design mold member is removably attachable to the first or the second mold section
11 by threaded fasteners.
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